

House Bill 402

By: Representatives Tumlin of the 38th, Dollar of the 45th, Carter of the 159th, Keown of the 173rd, and Knight of the 126th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, so as to provide for a special license plate promoting emergency medical services personnel; to provide for issuance, renewal, fees, licensing agreements, applications, and transfers relative to such special license plates; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by adding a new Code Section 40-2-86.10 to read as follows:

"40-2-86.10.

(a) The commissioner, in cooperation with licensed emergency services personnel in Georgia, and in order to promote and honor these individuals, shall design a special license plate to be issued displaying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's EMS Star of Life Symbol and the initials EMS. The license plates must be of the same size as general issue motor vehicle license plates and shall include a unique design and identifying number, whereby the total number of characters does not exceed six. It shall not be a requirement that a county name decal shall be fixed and displayed on license plates issued under this Code section.

(b) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Code section, this Code section shall not be implemented until such time as the State of Georgia has, through a licensing agreement or otherwise, received such licenses or other permissions as may be required to implement this Code section. The design of the initial edition of the emergency medical services license plates, as well as the design of subsequent editions and excepting only any part or parts of the designs owned by others and licensed to the state, shall be owned solely

1 by the State of Georgia for its exclusive use and control, except as authorized by the
2 commissioner. The commissioner may take such steps as may be necessary to give notice
3 of and protect such right, including the copyright or copyrights. However, such steps shall
4 be cumulative of the ownership and exclusive use and control established by this
5 subsection as a matter of law, and no person shall reproduce or otherwise use such design
6 or designs, except as authorized by the commissioner.

7 (c) Beginning in calendar year 2006, any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor
8 vehicle, except a vehicle registered under the International Registration Plan, and provides
9 proof of certification or licensure by the State of Georgia as an emergency medical
10 technician, paramedic, or owner of a licensed ambulance service in the State of Georgia,
11 upon complying with the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor
12 vehicles and upon the payment of a fee of \$25.00 in addition to the regular motor vehicle
13 registration fee, shall be issued an emergency medical services license plate. Special
14 license plates issued under this Code section shall be renewed annually with a revalidation
15 decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31 upon payment of an additional \$25.00 annual
16 registration fee, which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of
17 collection of other registration fees and remitted to the state as provided in Code Section
18 40-2-34.

19 (d) A qualified applicant may request an emergency medical services license plate any
20 time during the applicant's registration period. If such a license plate is to replace a current
21 valid license plate, the emergency medical services license plate shall be issued with
22 appropriate decals attached.

23 (e) No special license plate authorized pursuant to this Code section shall be issued except
24 upon the receipt of at least 1,000 applications. The special license plate shall have an
25 application period of two years after January 1, 2006, for payment of the manufacturing
26 fee. After such time if the minimum number of applications is not met, the department
27 shall not continue to accept the manufacturing fee, and all fees shall be refunded to
28 applicants.

29 (f) The department shall not be required to continue to manufacture the special license
30 plate if the number of active registrations falls below 500 registrations at any time during
31 the five-year period as provided in subsection (b) of Code Section 40-2-31. A current
32 registrant may continue to renew such special license plate during his or her annual
33 registration period upon payment of an additional \$25.00 annual special tag fee, which fee
34 shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees
35 and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. The department
36 may continue to issue such special license plates that it has in its inventory to assist in
37 achieving the minimum number of registrations. If the special license plate falls below 500

1 active registrations at any time during the five-year period as provided in subsection (b) of
2 Code Section 40-2-31, manufacture of the license plates shall not be continued until the
3 commissioner receives 1,000 applications.

4 (g) Emergency medical services license plates shall be transferred from one vehicle to
5 another vehicle in accordance with the provisions of Code Section 40-2-42.

6 (h) Emergency medical services license plates shall be issued within 30 days of
7 application."

8 **SECTION 2.**

9 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2006.

10 **SECTION 3.**

11 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.